

Nashville, Tenn .-- City council -Committee upon the affairs of
the Nashville and Northwestern
Vail road company.

Report



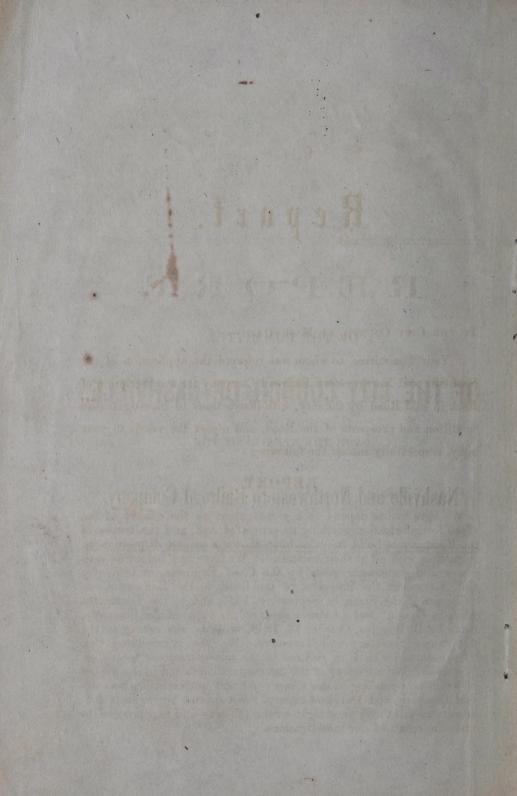
### REPORE

OF THE COMMITTEE

# OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF NASHVILLE,

UPON THE AFFAIRS OF THE

Nashville and Northwestern Railroad Company.



14 JULIG F. M. CRAIG

# Report.

TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF NASHVILLE:-

Your Committee, to whom was referred the application of the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad Company for a subscription of stock in said Road by the city, with instructions to investigate the condition and prospects of the Road, and report the result to your body, respectfully submit the following

#### REPORT.

We have had to depend to a great extent on the officers of the Road for information touching its estimated cost, and the means of the Company to build it—who have shown a willing disposition to furnish us with all at their command. We have had before us estimates and statements made by the Chief Engineer, in 1857—by Col. Stevenson, the President of the Road, to the Railroad Commissioner of the State, in September, 1857, and to the Committee while in session; and a balance sheet of the books of the Company, made by B. Douglas, October 13, 1858, while he was acting as the Company's Secretary and Treasurer. We also interrogated Col. Stevenson under oath, in relation to the various matters before us. We also availed ourselves of the information contained in the papers of a suit now pending in the Chancery Court at Nashville, between said Company and Davidson county. We append hereto such documents as will throw most light on the subject—and now proceed to state the result of our investigations.

#### COST OF THE ROAD.

The written statements which we had before us have all been more or less unsatisfactory, in not being entirely full. The estimate of the Chief Engineer in 1857, (hereto appended, marked "A") states the cost for graduation and cross-ties, at \$1,184.585.

The estimate of Col. Stevenson to the Railroad Commissioner of the State, in September, 1857, (hereto appended, by copy, and marked "B") placed the cost and outfit at \$2,933,200, which Col. Stevenson says contains the estimated cost of the bridge twice—and in his written statement to the Committee, February 23, 1859, (hereto appended, marked "C") at \$2,548,000, exclusive of the Tennessee river bridge. By the contract with Becker & Rust, the Company agreed to pay for building and completing the Road in all respects, \$4,327,500. To arrive at a solution we put the verbal

MEANS OF THE COMPANY.

# question to Col. Stevenson how much the Road could be built and fitted out for? and he replied that he thought it could be done for \$3,250,000—including the work already done; and we'so report.

On this head we have had still more difficulty in coming to a satisfactory conclusion. The fact that the stock subscriptions in Carroll, Benton, Humphreys, a portion of Dickson and possibly a portion of Cheatham counties were made on condition that the Road should be built on the Huntingdon, or Southern route—the Road not yet being definitely located-and the fact of the suit between the Company and Davidson county, besides a considerable amount of inferior litigation in several of the counties between the Company and its stockholders, throws some uncertainty on any calculation we may be able to make. But assuming that the Road will be constructed, if at all, on the Huntingdon or Southern route, we have the total amount of stock as per list made by the Committee from replies of Col. Stevenson, (hereto appended, marked "D") to be \$900,-299 37. This includes all the stock taken on the Southern route, of every kind. What proportion of this amount has been collected and used, we cannot precisely state. But Col. Stevenson informed us that considerably over \$400,000 had been expended in work done on the Road, engineering, salaries, &c. He also states that it would require a deduction of say 16 per eent. on the "old stock" to cover costs of collections, insolvencies, &c. He also states the present indebtedness of the Company above means in hand to be about \$18,000. The stock account will stand then as follows:

" Davidson county bonds enjoined....... 156,000 00— 604,905 44

BALANCE OF STOCK MEANS......\$295,383 98

Should the suit in relation to the Davidson county bonds be de cided in favor of the Company, this amount will be increased by \$156,000, less the amount of discount on sale of bonds, if there should be any. We take the above amount, however, as that which

the Company has to prosecute the work at once.

The balance sheet furnished by Mr. Douglas, former Secretary and Treasurer of the Company, dated last October, (and which is appended, marked "E") would indicate that the Company had used pretty much its entire means. Col. Stevenson impeached the correctness of this paper, however, and Mr. Douglas having declined to come before the Committee in person, either to defend or explain his statement, or to give any other information, the Committee have

chosen to make no further reference to it.

If the Company shall succeed in complying with the conditions of the law granting State aid and receive it, it will be \$200,000 for bridges. The other aid of \$10,000 per mile, is estimated for 1575 miles in Col. Stevenson's statement to the Railroad Commissioner of the State, and for 167 miles in his statement to the Committee. marked "C." In all the Company's estimates of means to carry on the enterprize, they include \$1,000,000 of Second Mortgage Bonds—which the Company is empowered by the Legislature to issue, and which the Board of Directors have authorized to be issued. None of these bonds have been issued or sold; and inasmuch as they are the mere credit of the road, and we have no sort of means of knowing how far these may be made available in the work of construction, we have thought proper not to include them in our consideration of the present means of the Company. The State aid might also be placed in the same category. But as this resource is dependent only on the one condition of obtaining sufficient stock to grade the Road, we present the resources of the Road, State aid included.

#### RECAPITULATION.

Whole cost of road and equipment			\$3,250,000 00	
Present unpaid,-undisputed stock	\$295,384	00	or strong the rate	03
Bridge aid, (State)		00	LEAD BALLING	
Aid for Iron, (State)	1,575,000	00		
Value of work done	250,000	00	2,320,384 00	
DEFICIT OF MEANS			\$929,616 00	

The President of the Road is confident of adding still further subscriptions of stock, both original and in the way of part pay on contracts for construction. But we do not feel authorized under the resolution to make any statement of what may be the hopes of the officers—except so far as it might enter as an element in the prospects of the Road.

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#### AMOUNT OF WORK DONE.

#### Col. Stevenson states the amount of work done as follows:

From Hickman to Union City is graded and bridged—nearly all the cross-ties are on the ground, and may be said to be ready for the
iron
From Union City to Dresden is about four-fifths graded and bridged —one-half or two-thirds of the cross-ties delivered, and a force is actively at work
From Dresden eastward, under contract to be finished by the first of
August 4 "
From Huntingdon west, graded 3 "
From Nashville west, about three-fourths graded and bridged24 "
TOTAL COMPLETED AND WORKED ON67 miles.

th of the Road is one hundred and seventy five miles

#### The length of the Road is one hundred and seventy-five miles.

#### PROPOSED ROUTE OF ROAD.

Two routes have been surveyed, known as the Northern and Southern, respectively.

The first passes through Charlotte—about eighteen miles north of Waverly—about the same distance north of Camden—about twenty-three miles north of Huntingdon, and through Paris and Dresden.

The second passes seven miles south of Charlotte, through Waverly—crosses the Tennessee river about one and a-half miles west of Reynoldsburg, thence through Camden, Huntingdon and Dresden.

If the road is constructed on the Northern route, it is designed to unite with the Memphis, Clarksville and Louisville Road and use a common track for about forty miles, including the bridge across the Tennessee river. But inasmuch as we have thought the Southern route was the only one in which the city of Nashville should feel a paramount interest, we have confined our investigations to it.

#### THE DAVIDSON COUNTY SUIT.

Having discarded the 156 Davidson county bonds from our estimate of the means at the present command of the Company as set forth above, we will state that the bill in that suit charges the Company with general extravagance and waste in the management of the affairs of the Road; that the enterprize is a total failure; that they did not comply with the requirements of the charter in not having a certain amount of stock subscribed by a given day—and asks that the 156 bonds of the county which have not been used, be delivered back to the county, and also for an account, and that the 144 bonds already used shall be refunded to the county.

The answer denies generally and specifically the material allegations of the bill; alleges sufficient means, if permitted to go on without litigation, to build the Road; that the charter has not been violated, &c., &c.; and also that if an account shall be ordered, that the 144 bonds would not be sufficient to make good the propor-

tional payments as between the county and other stockholders, and that the county would have to pay still more to establish the due

and just proportion.

The proof taken in the case is various and sometimes conflicting. Some witnesses rating the stock higher than others—some thinking the Road in a bad condition, and others not. But the Committee have not undertaken to decide the merits of the suit, nor to guess in whose favor it will be decided. We thought it was in such a condition that we would not be warranted in stating the remaining bonds of the county as a part of the present available means of the Company. We called upon Judge Whitworth, of the County Court, to state whether the County Court would discontinue the suit in the event the city should take the proposed stock, and hereto append his reply, marked "F."

#### THE SECOND MORTGAGE BONDS.

In relation to the Second Mortgage Bonds we may state that these are simply the bonds of the Company, which constitute a lien on the Road for their payment, after the payment of the lien of the State amounting to \$10,000 per mile and the bridge aid of \$200,000.

#### THE PETITION.

In the matter of the petition of the Railroad Company, and that of sixteen or seventeen hundred citizens asking that the question of taking the proposed stock by the city be submitted to the popular vote, we recommend that the question be submitted as asked; and that an election be opened and held on the first Saturday in June next, under the provisions of the Code of Tennessee in such cases made and provided—and in accordance with the accompanying resolution.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. M. HAMILTON,
S. N. HOLLINGSWORTH,
JAS. B. CRAIGHEAD,
B. S. RHEA,
IRA P. JONES.

In signing the foregoing report the undersigned reserves to him-

self the right to make the following exceptions, to wit:

1st. The report states the present indebtedness of the Company over means in hand to be \$18,000; at the same time it does not include in the assets of the Company—the property for which said indebtedness was created—which is now estimated to be worth the sum of \$30,000.

2d. The estimate for State aid for iron is based upon the supposition that the Road is 157½ miles long, when, in fact, according to

the testimony of Col. Stevenson before the Committee, the Road is 167 miles long; and the Company will be entitled to aid to the amount of \$1,670,000, which is \$95,000 more than is estimated on page 5 of this report. The charter originally terminated the Road at Union City, which is 1571 miles from Nashville. The Legislature afterwards extended the Road to Hickman, and the State aid to the State line-making the whole length of the Road to the State

line to be 167 miles.

3d. Exception is made to that portion of the report on page 5, which is as follows: "And inasmuch as they," (alluding to the Second Mortgage Bonds) "are the mere credit of the Road, and we have no sort of means of knowing how far they may be made available in the work of construction, we have thought proper not to include them in our consideration of the present means of the Company." Col. Stevenson testified before the Committee that he could use five hundred thousand dollars of the Second Mortgage Bonds at par in paying for iron and work done on the Road. Consequently this amount, at least, of these Bonds, should be included in the estimated means of the Company. These three items of assets amount to \$625,000; which if added to the means of the Company as estimated on page 5 of this report, we find the assets of the Company to be \$2,945,384.

J. M. HAMILTON.

Resolved by the City Council of Nashville, That the Sheriff of Davidson county is hereby authorized and required to open and hold an election within the corporate limits of the city, on the first Saturday in June next, in the usual mode, to ascertain the wishes of the legal voters of the city of Nashville for and against a subscription to the capital stock of the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad Company, to the extent of one hundred thousand dollars, and such additional sum, if any, as will make the entire subscription of the city in Railroads amount to one-fifteenth of its taxable property, estimated on the basis of the valuation for the year 1859. The said election to be held under the provisions of the 1146 and 1147 sections of the Code of Tennessee, and due and proper return of the same made to the city Council of Nashville, at its first meeting after And the Sheriff shall state in the advertisement that said subscription of stock is required to be paid in three equal annual instalments, dating from said election, by a tax to be levid on all the property and taxables in the city, including polls, privileges, merchandize, &c. He shall also state that the said Railroad Company propose to give to the tax payers the privilege, after the instalments of subscription have been fully paid, to take in lieu of the certificate, issued to them for the taxes paid, the Second Mortgage Bonds of the Company, bearing six per cent. interest, at the rate of 80 cents in the dollar.

#### A.

#### CHIEF ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE.

Estimated cost of Eastern Division from Nashville to Tenressee River Bridge—80,58 miles.

#### Western Division—from Tennessee River to Inion City—76 91 noiles.

1,248,530 cubic yards excavation, at 20c	5,760 39.960 4,640 23,660 45,500	00 00 00 00 00 00 00	
76 miles clearing and grubbing, & \$400 Cost from Tennessee river to Union City,	50,400	\$400,637	25

#### Hickman Division—from Union City to Hickman— 14 100 miles.

	to complete graduation				
**	cross-ties	,	1.	\$10,000	00

State of Tennessee-Weakly County:

Personally appeared before me, Josiah Ferris, a Justice of the Peace in and for the county aforesaid, Thomas H. Millington, an engineer, and made oath in due form of law that the foregoing estimate of the grading and cross-ties of the line of the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad, from Nashville to Hickman in the State of Kentucky, is a full and fair estimate of the cost of preparing said Road for the superstructure and iron, provided for by the State bounty of ten thousand dollars a mile.

THOMAS H. MILLINGTON.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, June 25th, 1857.

(A Copy.)

JOSIAH FERRIS, J. P.

#### B. :

# Ca. STEVENSON'S STATEMENT TO STATE RAILROAD COMMISSIONER.

Office of N. & N. W. R. R. Co., Nashville, Tenn., Sept., 1857.

#### R. G. Payne, Esq., Commissioner, &c.:

Dear Sir-In conformity to law, I proceed to report to you the condition of the affairs of the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad Company.

The estimated cost of grading and preparing the road-bed, bridges and crost-ties for the iron, for the whole Road	
from Nashville to Hickman, Ky. 175 miles is \$1.274 000 0	0
113 miles of fron of the U pattern, of 80 tons to the mile and	
with cost	0
8 miles of side-tracks, 70 ons to the mile, at \$70 per ton, is 39,200 0	0
The Company propose adopting in place of a chair a piece of	
1100 to the notion in the II rail and reach across the	
ties which, with spikes, wilcost probably as much as \$800	
per mile 140 000 0	0
Engineering, contingencies, dende & 255 200 0	
19 1st class locomotives, #9.000 early amount to \$125 000 00	
8 passenger cars, 2,000 "\ 16.000 00	
8 passenger cars, 2,000 " 16,000 00 4 baggage cars, 1,500 " 6,000 00	
100 DOX & Open freight cars. DOV ** \ 66 . 65 AAA AA	
Gravel and repair cars, switches, &c 25,000 00— 247,000 0	0
MAKING THE ROAD AND OUTFIT COST\$2,933,200 0	0

The Company have the following means with which to execute and pay for the above, including what has been done and paid for:

Subscription all secured or paid in at Hickman, Ky	180 000	00
" Carroll " " Benton "	77,000	00=
"Benton "	2 A 9,000	00
Humphreys "about	16,000	00
" Humphreys " about " Dickson " " Davidson " "	40,000 358,000	
State and for bridges	200,000	
" \$10,000 per mile for 1571 miles of Road in Tennes-		
see, (7½ miles being in Kentucky) makes	1,575,000	00
pany, will produce, probably	700,000	00
Total	\$3,319,000	00

The undersigned was elected President of this Company in December last, when the Board, after looking into the affairs of the Company, concluded to raise more stock subscriptions before letting any more work, and finally concluded to stop the work being done

until the means could be had to guarantee the letting of the work with certainty of means to complete the same in a short time.

There has been added to the subscriptions of stock about two hundred and ten thousand dollars the present year, and we hope and believe we will get at least ninety thousand dollars more added the present year,—when their means, the Board think, will be ample to go on with the work, and complete the whole line in as short a time as such work can be done.

The Company can go on and build the Road with their present means, but do not feel disposed to risk having to realize a very large amount from the Second Mortgage Bonds, and therefore they are pressing for more stock, with every prospect of getting it very soon.

The cost of the work already done on this line reaches to the large sum of \$335,000, besides some unadjusted small balances which would swell the same to perhaps \$350,000; which amount is spent about alike on each side of the Tennessee river. This of course includes engineering and expenses. The work has been well done, and all paid for but a few thousand dollars in back per cent.

not due until work is finished, &c., &c.

The above will be one of the most important roads in its general connexions in the State. It meets at Nashville the "Nashville and Chattanooga," the "Tennessee and Alabama," the "Louisville and Nashville," and the "Nashville and Henderson" Roads. It will meet at Huntingdon, west of the Tennessee river, the "Memphis and Ohio" Road, with which this Company has arrangements for through business, and the "Tennessee Central and Mississippi Railroad" which connects at Jackson, Tenn., with the great "New Orleans Line," and the "Mobile and Ohio" Roads, giving the most direct, quickest and shortest route from Nashville to Memphis, to New Orleans, to Mobile and all the interior of Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama. It will connect with the Paducah branch of the Mobile and Ohio Road 16 miles east of the Mississippi river, and with the Mobile and Ohio again within 14 miles of the Mississippi river. Then there is a probability of an important connexion with the Clarksville Company in Dickson or Humphreys county.

It will be seen that the cost of grading, bridging, cross-ties, &c., all ready for the iron, is \$1,274,000, or \$7,280 per mile; this would seem to be a very low cost for grading through such a country, but it actually embraces more work than is necessary, and we think it

can be considerably reduced and make a first-class road too.

The Directors have a corps of engineers on the line now testing this matter, and hope to let all or a large part of the Road out this year, with the means at command to press the whole Road to an early completion.

There is no Superintendent or Chief Engineer on this Road yet, and therefore the absence of their reports with this is accounted for.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

#### C.

#### COL. STEVENSON'S STATEMENT TO THE COMMITTEE.

NASHVILLE, TENN., Feb. 23d, 1859.

James M. Hamilton, Chairman, &c., Nashville:-

Dear Sir—In answer to your request I here present the following statement of the affairs of the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad Company.

The estimated cost, under oath of the Engineer, to complete the grading, bridging and cross-ties, is	\$ -2 <b>\</b>	
cost over \$400,000, but valued at.H 250.000 leaving	\$936,000	00
Cost of iron rails delivered for 175 miles of road, estimating		
for iron 58 pounds to the lineal yard, at \$60 per ton is  Track-laying	.962,500	00
Track-laying	87,500	00
Machinery and buildings	300,000	
Present indebtedness of the Company over cash on hand	12,800	
Total	2,298,800	00

#### The Company's means are as follows:

State aid on 167 miles of Road in Tennessee, at ten thousand dollars a mile	\$1,670,000	00
Bridge aid on Huntingdon line	200,000	
Balance of bonds of Davidson county	154,000	
subscription in Davidson county	12,909	
" Cheatham county	7,713	
old stock in Dickson county		
" new stock in Dickson county	2,800	
Old Buoth III Aktility III Oye Couling		
new stock in Humphreys county	2,500 8,980	
" " Carroll county	66,492	
" "Henry county	9,650	
" " Carroll county " " Henry county " " Weakly county	41,259	
New stock assuming 24 per cent. will yield (Weakly co. tax)	150,000	.00
Balance of new subscriptions at Hickman	59,000	
Amount of stock put into the late lettings	10,112	00
-	\$2,416,070	00
Proposed subscription of Nashville	300,000	
Add \$1,000,000 Company's Mortgage Bonds, which can be	. 000,000	00
used in buying iron, grading, &c	1,000,000	00
TOTAL	\$3,716,070	00

Stock can also be used in the same way to some extent.

If the Paris and Cane Creek line is adopted, the means of the Company would stand thus:

Deduct from the above the subscriptions of Carroll, Hum- phreys, and Benton counties, \$82,827—which taken from
the \$2,746,070 will leave\$2,683,143 00
Add a subscription for Dickson county \$75,000 00
Additional State aid at Tennessee river 100,000 00
Add half cost of grading about forty miles—
"part occupied by both roads" 125,000 00— \$300,000 00
Company bonds as above
Total

Thus showing a surplus to cover all contingencies on the Paris line of \$1,634,343—and on the Huntingdon line of \$1,437,270,—enough in either case to cover all Company expenses and contingencies, and leave a large surplus of the bonds unappropriated.

There is of the above old stock to the amount of \$320,000—on which there should properly be a discount of say 16 per cent., or \$50,000, which will make the balance, we think, equal to cash.

The new stock is good.

Thus it is seen that the Company have, with the city subscription, a surplus on the Huntingdon route of \$417,270 over and above and not including Second Mortgage Bonds, and a surplus on the Paris route of \$634,343 without counting the million of dollars of bonds which can be used to a great extent in building the Road. This surplus, with the Second Mortgage Bonds, is as much as any road we know of has had to start with, and we feel assured will secure the Road in quick time. All of which is most respectfully submitted.

#### V. K. STEVENSON, Pres't. N. & N. W. R. R.

#### D. LIST OF STOCK.

Weakly county old stock*       \$85,425         Obion county       1,000         Carroll county       77,875         Benton county       9,300         Humphreys county       4,700         Davidson county       55,100         Dickson county       16,950         Hickman Division       117,850	00 00 00 00 00 00
Davidson county bonds         300,000           D. T. McGavock         8,649           City of Nashville         6,000	00 37
NEW STOCK. \$682,849	
Weakly and Obion—in lettings \$10,000	
Humphreys, (about)	
Weakly county tax 150,000	
Hickman Division, (about) 57,150	
Dickson	00
Total\$905,299	37

<sup>\*\$5,000</sup> contingent on the Road taking the Northern route.

Trial Walnuce of the Wooks of the Nashville and Northbostern Ruilroad Company, Oct. 13th, 1858.

A S	2 Stock No. 2 on Construction Acc't. 1,725 00	34   61   Stock in Hickman & Obion R. R 1	50 Interest on Davidson co. bonds 32,029 47	Mai. Chambers				40 F. Hagan & Bro			70 64	2,473 91   64   Charles Gibbs	99	22   66	05   66	02   66	89	82 00 68	89 80 66	00	67 00	91	25 32	400	150 00 TOTAL ST74,848 04	
	18 Davidson county Bonds\$106,000 00	control of Col. S	Salary	25 Expense	Construction Western Division	Construction Eastern Division 124,052	Right of Way	Engineering	67 Constr'n. Hickman & Ohio R. K. : 90,041 21	Those and Costs 816 55		Bills Receivable	Interest \$4,270 81	Discount on Davidson co. bonds 18,372 91-	34 R. H. Watkins, Agent	Jeptha Tarrel	Depot grounds at Nashville	City of Hickman		71 H. L. Claiborne	Jno. Doheny	V. K. Stevenson, Treasurer	V. K. Stevenson, President	Exchange		Table 1

#### F.

#### JAMES WHITWORTH'S STATEMENT.

Judge James Whitworth, at the request of the Committee, appeared before them, and in reply to questions propounded to him said:

I know of no understanding among the members of the County Court or any of them, to discontinue the suit of the county of Davidson against the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad Company,

in the event that the proposed city subscription is taken.

Some of the members of the Court are in favor of the discontinuance at any time, and some are opposed to it; but I think it is doubtful whether a majority of the Court would consent to the discontinuance in any event. I think, however, that the Court would be materially influenced if they were shown that the Company had the means to build the Road, and that it would be carried on to completion without unnecessary delay.

JAMES WHITWORTH.

NASHVILLE, March 28th, 1859.

Messrs. Hamilton, Hollingsworth and others,

Committee Corporation Nashville, Tenn.:

Gentlemen—You request my appearance before you in your official capacity, that I may answer such questions as you may propound, in relation to the affairs of the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad Company.

I respectfully refuse to do so, because I have entirely separated myself from all the business of this Company, other than the ownership of one thousand dollars of its stock, paid in full years since,

which, for the thanking, your corporation can have.

When serving the Company as its Secretary and its Treasurer, I made the within correct balance of its books, and now place the

same at your disposal.

Respectfully differing, as I do, from a large majority of your constituents, both as to the propriety and practicability of your corporation becoming a stockholder in this enterprize for an amount equal to its necessities, it does not become me to say more.

Most respectfully yours, &c.,

B. DOUGLAS.

The petitioners wish to so modify their petition as to request the City Council to hold an election to ascertain if the city of Nashville will subscribe to a tax to be levied on the taxable property of the city, in one, two and three years, in equal annual instalments, the entire sum of the tax so levied to amount to the balance required to make up one-fifteenth of the entire taxable property of the city, agreeable to the valuation of 1859—in conformity with the limitations in article 1142 of the Code of Tennessee.

V. K. STEVENSON, Pres't.

We, the Directors of the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad Company, having heretofore authorized the application made to the corporate authorities of the city of Nashville for a city subscription, do hereby assent to the modification proposed, and authorize the President to apply for the subscription in the mode and upon the terms above set forth.

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W. F. COOPER, W. F. BANG,
A. H. HICKS, D. T. McGAVOCK,
R. C. McNairy, M. Burns.

Gaylord Bros.

Makers

Syracuse, N. Y.

PAI. JAN. 21, 1908

